

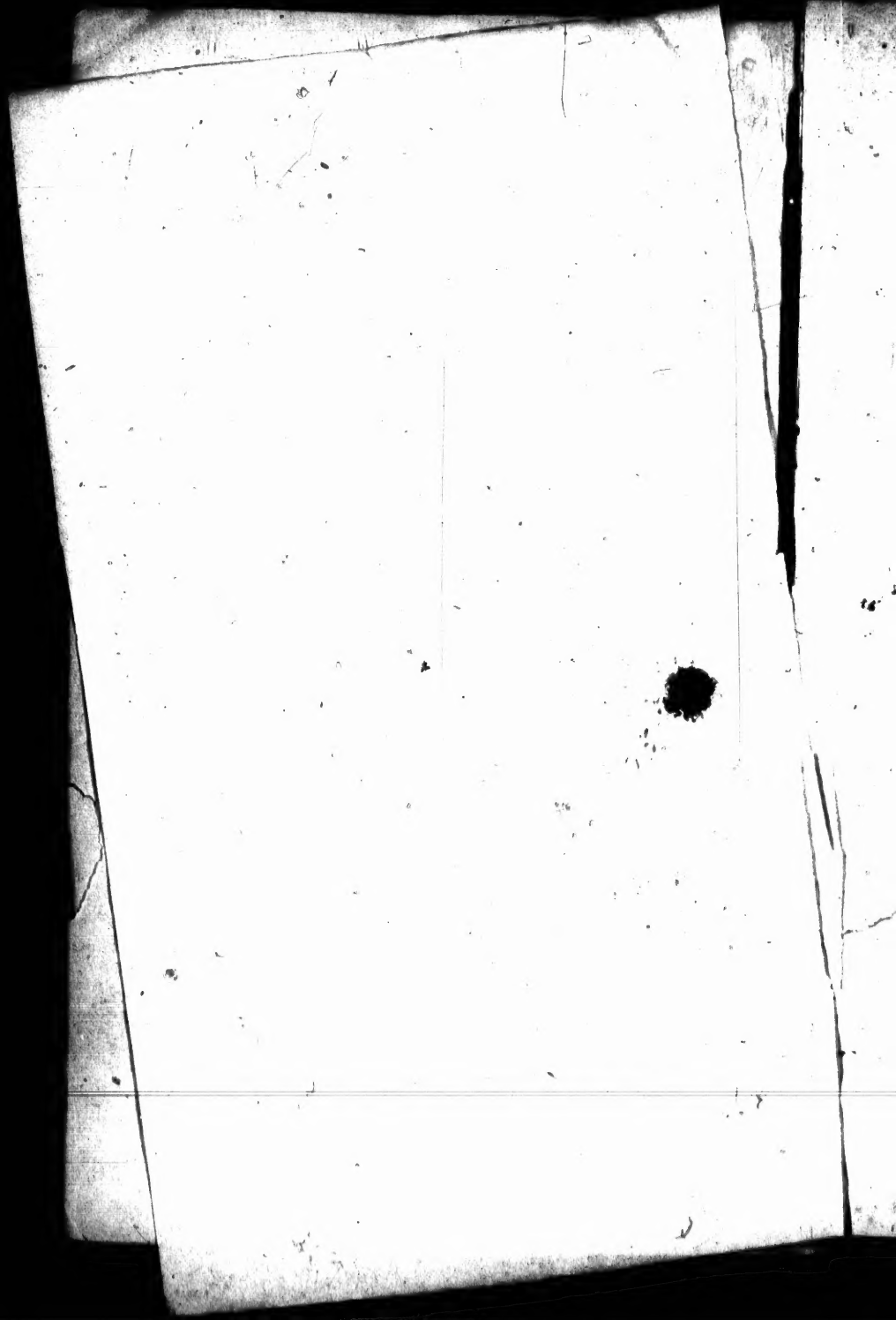
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No. 2

AN
ADDRESS
TO THE
GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS
FOR THE
SUPPORT of the MISSIONS,
Carried on by the METHODIST SOCIETY,
IN THE
WEST INDIES, NOVA SCOTIA, and
NEWFOUNDLAND.

By THOMAS COKE, LL.D.

[1787]

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A N
A D D R E S S,
to the Society.

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,
I EMBRACE the earliest opportunity of returning you my grateful acknowledgments for your liberal contributions, in support of our missions to the West Indies, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. I have laid my receipts and disbursements before a committee of the conference, having expended about fifty pounds more than I received.

I cannot present to you a clearer account of our success in the West Indies, than by laying before you extracts from two letters which I have lately received from two of the missionaries, which, with the account of my visit to those islands lately published, will, I trust, afford you some degree of satisfaction.

" *Antigua, April 30, 1787.*

" Reverend and dear Sir,
" **HAVING** received information from brother
" Clarke that he had got the grant of one hundred and fifty acres of land near the Carribbs,
" in St. Vincent's, in order to erect a chapel
" and school for the propagation of the gospel
" among them, and requesting, moreover, that
" I would pay a visit to St. Vincent's, brother
" Warrener and I sailed to that island about
" three

" three weeks ago. We met brother Clarke at
 " Kingston; and the next day went to see the
 " land above mentioned. The Carribbs are
 " willing to receive us as missionaries, and to
 " give up their children to be taught by us.
 " This undertaking will be attended with ex-
 " pence at present, in which I trust, our Eng-
 " lish friends will assist us, as we have no re-
 " sources yet in the West Indies. Antigua, in-
 " deed, can support its own expence; but there
 " is no provision made yet for a preacher at St.
 " Vincent's. Brother Warrener is well received,
 " and his labours much blessed at Antigua; but
 " is in a poor state of health at present. Our society
 " at Antigua consists of forty-three whites, and
 " one thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven
 " blacks, besides those we have on trial. I bless
 " God I still desire to be entirely devoted to his
 " service. I feel much my own weakness, and
 " want of abilities and grace for so important a
 " work. Wishing you all spiritual blessings in
 " Christ Jesus, and hoping that your life will be
 " spared, for the good of the church, I remain
 " Your affectionate brother in Christ,
 " JOHN BAXTER."

" *St. Christopher's, June 15, 1787.*

" Dear and reverend Sir,
 " IF I do not get some assistance from Eu-
 " rope or America, I must inevitably give up
 " St. Eustatius; as the work at St. Kitt's is of
 " much greater importance at present. I have
 " occasionally visited St. Eustatius since your
 " departure. Our numbers there are increased,
 " whom I have put into regular classes. I waited
 " on the captain of the island, who received me
 " cordially, and gave me an invitation to dinner.
 " He

" He desired me to get my commendatory let-
 " ters ready against the governor's arrival, who
 " has been expected here for some time. Last
 " night a gentleman from *Montserrat* visited me,
 " who is under conviction, and longs for one of
 " our missionaries to go to that island. He has
 " under his influence two hundred negroes; and
 " he told me, that the person we should send
 " there might freely make use of *his* house as his
 " home; and moreover, that he would give ten
 " or twelve *Johanneses** out of his own purse as a
 " part of his salary, and that he might preach
 " round the island, wherever he pleased. He
 " heard me preach twice with great attention.
 " About two years ago he was at *Bath*, and
 " heard some gospel-ministers, which was of use
 " to him. He tells me his wife and children are
 " religiously disposed. This may be an opening
 " for good. In my former letter I mentioned
 " that we have in this island one hundred and
 " fifty, and in *St. Eustatius* sixty-two; since I
 " wrote that letter, I have an increase of one
 " hundred, including Catechumens. The peo-
 " ple begin to do something towards the support
 " of the missionaries, which, with some more
 " money from England (used with economy),
 " may, I hope, lay a foundation for the conver-
 " sion of many thousand souls. After this year,
 " the island will, I apprehend, fully support its
 " own ministers.
 " When I was at *St. Eustatius* last, I had an
 " opportunity of seeing two *Bermudians* (men of
 " consequence), who, when I mentioned my de-
 " sire of going some time to their island to
 " preach, gave me an invitation to their houses.
 " Also two gentlemen of *Anguilla*, when on a

* A *Johannes* is one pound sixteen shillings Sterling.

" visit at St. Kitt's, left their address at Sandy
 " Point, on hearing of me, and expressed a de-
 " sire that I should go there to preach. I feel a
 " great desire that the *Grenadoes, Barbadoes, and*
 " *Jamaica*, should be visited. O that God would
 " dispose some *zealous, pious* young men to come
 " here to seek and to save the wandering children
 " of *Canaan*, many of whom are ready to re-
 " ceive the truth ! In *St. Kitt's*, I have begotten
 " a *lawyer* in the gospel, who formerly resided in
 " London ; who had been a mocker of the truth,
 " but was cut to the heart on hearing me preach
 " from Mark viii. 38. and he is now justified. One
 " of the searchers in the custom-house is also
 " begotten to a lively hope, and is now a class-
 " leader, whom, I trust, God designs for the
 " ministry.

" I am, dear and reverend Sir, &c.

" WILLIAM HAMMETT."

Our preachers have also in those islands a large
 number of *Catechumens*, or *persons under instruction*
for baptism, who are not accounted members of
 our society. Our infant-work in *Nova Scotia*
 prospers also much: we have about six hundred
 (chiefly whites) in society, who maintain the few
 preachers we have there at present. In *Newfound-*
land we proceed but slowly. Our great harvest
 in the British dominions in America, is in the
 West India islands, which contain, according to
 the exactest computation that has been made, not
 less than half a million of negroes, who seem to
 be all ready to receive the gospel. There the
 fields are ripe indeed: but for some years the ex-
 pence will be very great, especially in supporting
 the mission among the poor *Carribs* at *St. Vincent's*,
 the conversion of whom will be an unspeakable
 blessing

blessing even in a *political* point of view, but *how*
much more in a *religious*!

O help us, my brethren, I beseech you by the
love of God: have pity, have pity on those out-
casts of men, the poor oppressed negroes. It is
in your power to make a full compensation to
them for the *temporal* distresses they endure, by
enabling us to make to them in the name of the
Lord an offer of *eternal* blessings. And ye well
know, that "God is not unrighteous, to forget
"your work and labour of love which ye shew
"toward his name."

I am, dearly beloved in the Lord,

Your truly affectionate brother and servant,
THOMAS COKE.

Southampton, August 10, 1787.

LITTLE, I think, need be added to the pre-
ceding account. Here is a glorious beginning,
and, I trust, it is only the beginning of those
wonderful things which God is about to work
upon the earth! Let all that fear him continue
instant in prayer, that the whole earth may be
filled with his glory.

JOHN WESLEY.

